A Manual of Meditation

PREPARED FOR USE IN
THE THORNDIKE HILTON
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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1926

The Chicago Theological Seminary
FIFTY-EIGHTH STREET
NEAR UNIVERSITY AVENUE

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Donor Rev. John R. Hahn

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The Evangelical
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THE Thorndike Hilton Memorial Chapel for Meditation and Prayer is the gift of Henry Hoyt Hilton and Charlotte Sibley Hilton in memory of their son.

Thorndike Hilton was a young man of rare intellectual gifts; it is most appropriate that the building bearing his name should be placed in the midst of a great university with its thousands of students near the age at which his earthly life ended in 1924, when he was twenty-one years old.

This Chapel is intended for the use of all who seek moments of rest and recovery from the pressure and strain of life. Its key-note, shown by the inscriptions carved in the arches, is Peace.

It is hoped that the Chapel will be an inspiration to all who tarry within its walls either for private devotion or common worship.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE USE OF THIS MANUAL

This *Manual* has been prepared for the guidance of those who desire help in the use of The Thorndike Hilton Memorial Chapel as a place of meditation and prayer.

The culture of the religious life by means of periods of time devoted to quiet meditation and through exercises of mind, affections, and will in definite objects is recognized as essential to the highest development of personality. Therefore the ancient and still valid practice of spiritual direction is one of the most necessary factors in expanding religious experience. It is impossible to furnish personal counsel through The Thorndike Hilton Chapel; but forms for individual meditation and common worship are hereby made available.

They have been prepared in view of the many varieties of yearning and need represented by those who use the Chapel.

First, therefore, a method of meditation has been provided for the direction of thought, emotion, and will. This may be used in connection with any subject which is appropriate to spiritual reflection and prayer.

Then a series of meditations is printed. Certain of these are connected with the subjects represented in the sanctuary window.

Following these, various Collects and Prayers have been gathered which may be used to voice the moods of devotion.

Orders for Vesper Service are included for the use of groups in worship.

Thus the effort is made to guide the religious exercises of all who find here a place of peace, encouragement, and inspiration.

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A Method of Meditation

The Thorndike Hilton Memorial Chapel is designed as a place for meditation and prayer. Meditation is not mere passive rest—it is the purposeful and guided activity of mind and heart and will, under the most favorable conditions and for specific ends. In order that the Chapel may serve the needs of all who seek its welcoming peace, the following suggestions concerning meditation are made.

This method of meditation is essentially that commended by St. Francis of Sales to a young friend and may be found more fully stated in his *Introduction to a Devout Life*.

First Step—Preparation

Let the imagination be active.

Place yourself in the presence of God.

Affirm that since God is everywhere, He is now here; and you are in the very atmosphere of His nearness, like a flying bird in the air.

Think of Christ, "whom not having seen ye love," as now in this Chapel sharing your experience, although unseen, as once He lived with men.

Offer a brief prayer of confession and petition, imploring guidance in the moments of meditation to follow.

Propose a subject, making it as specific and vivid as possible. Imagine it as connected with some definite action or part of your experience.

Second Step—Consideration

Let the mental powers be active.

Entertain all possible considerations of the subject proposed, in order to make it clear and convincing to the mind. Seek solid reasons for the proposition, assured that the religious life may be based on facts and logical conclusions.

Go from point to point in the consideration without hurry or fatigue. Proceed only so far as time and a composed mind will permit.

Third Step—Resolution

Let the feelings and the will be active.

The reasons reached in the consideration should stimulate the affections, since we must love better what is more fully known.

Reduce general considerations, thus warmed by the emotions, to the form of definite duties to be presented to the will for acceptance.

Resolve firmly and reverently, "I will now undertake to build my life upon that which I have considered and which has been clarified in my meditation."

Fourth Step—Conclusion

Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the new truth discerned and the new resolution registered.

Offer a prayer of consecration to the practical duties and the enlarged life involved in the resolution.

Offer a prayer for grace and strength to keep steadfastly in the way of duty until the resolution is fully carried out.

Then, as one who has been walking in a garden of flowers gathers a few to take with him, select a truth or an impression and carry it in memory for the day.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall guard your hearts and your thoughts
in Christ Jesus.

A Meditation on Peace

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

As all who came in contact with Jesus found rest for their weariness and peace in their anxiety, so I would believe that the unseen, living Christ is now with me, ready to say, "Let not your heart be troubled."

The keynote of this chapel, expressed in the sentences printed above, which are carved in the arches under the roof, is Peace. The building itself is designed for the restoration of the soul; and all who gather here are asked to yield to the brooding spirit of quietness, comfort, and hope.

Peace may not be found by running away from the problem or the place that causes unrest. Times of retreat are necessary; the bent bow must sometimes be unstrung; but the final achievement of peace comes from bringing new factors into the problem and fresh energies into the struggle.

One source of new power is to study the sources of irritation and unrest in order to determine whether there is any real reason that they should cause restlessness and fear.

Another source of clearer vision and greater courage is found in reckoning the value of time and the power of patience in solving my problems. Times without number my fears have been dispelled by waiting and working and trusting.

Heavenly Father, Thy love and wisdom are sufficient for the solution of all my problems. In Thy will is my peace. I will not cease from effort; but I will learn to wait patiently for Thee. In doing my best for myself, I will remember that Thou art also doing what is best for me. And so I hush my complaints and walk in the security of Thy power and love. *Amen*

A Meditation on Friendship

David and Jonathan
(*In the East Window*)

As David and Jonathan stand side by side in intimate human fellowship, may their figures become a symbol of Thy nearness to me, my Heavenly Father. I will believe that Thou art even now "closer than breathing" to me. In this sense of Thy cleansing love, help me to think of loyalty and friendship, putting far from me any jealousies or suspicions, and filling my mind with the deep desire to love all my comrades.

Friendship is the source of strength and happiness in daily life. How it has enriched me in the past! Fortune is fickle; but true friendship outlasts adversity and shines through the darkest night.

Friendship is mutual. It calls for the give-and-take which blesses both parties to the transaction. My faith and courage must be at the disposal of my friend; and his must also serve my need.

Friendship is subject to growth. From feeble beginnings it may develop until it becomes stronger than hoops of steel. In order to bring this to pass I will nourish my friendships on love and courage.

Friendship makes large demands upon sympathy and forgiveness. I am often misunderstood; I misunderstand others. I want the benefit of the doubt; I must give it to others. I want to be trusted even when my motives are not clear; I must give this trust to others.

Friendship finds its consummation when friends are one in God. The deepest unity is by way of religion and consecration. To love others best, I must think of them as also objects of the love of God.

I thank Thee, Friend Divine, for this living truth. I will strive to be a more loyal friend to men because Thou art my Lord and Lover. I will go out from this chapel quieted and encouraged by the sense of Thy love and of the loyalty of others to me. *Amen*

A Meditation on Honesty

Joseph Interpreting the Dreams of the Butler and the Baker
(*In the East Window*)

Three men are in prison and the living God does not forsake them there. If this is true, surely He is near me here as I think on the meaning of this scene.

It is so easy to speak pleasant words to our comrades! It is so hard to tell plainly the truths that are unwelcome and that hurt. Joseph did this. I reflect upon his fearlessness in his dealing with his comrades in prison. Thus I know that the best friend is the one who deals honestly with me. I will take with grace the rebukes and the severities of those who love me so much that they dare to be utterly honest with me.

I must learn that the laws of God cannot be broken without regard to the penalties that follow with inevitable sureness. But how rich is Thy forgiveness, O God! If I were to meet only the punishments that should follow my transgressions, how could I endure the issue? But Thy chastenings are for my good.

I must not miss the lesson of ingratitude in this story. It is told in the bitter words, "Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph but forgat him." This, I know full well, may happen to me. I must bear it patiently. But, by Thy help, I will not forget the kind and honest actions of my friends.

Help me, O God, to look out of all my imprisoning experiences with perfect trust in Thee. Help me to be honest in all that I see and to know and to speak the words that help as well as those that hurt in utmost faith in the truth that I express. Thou dealest honestly with me. I will not forget this when the days seem dark with clouds. And when Thou bringest me out of my prison house I will be glad of my release and happy in the consciousness of Thy favor. *Amen*

A Meditation on Filial Love

John and Mary Returning from Calvary
(*In the East Window*)

May the meaning of Calvary come to me with new vividness and power as I imagine its reality, its tragedy, and its splendor. Here surely God is near me as I meditate upon the significance of this supreme event to Mary and to John.

I see the tottering figure of Mary, worn by watching and wasted by grief. She cannot meet the world without help. And she finds this in the strong young John. She can bear with him what she could not endure alone. The love of her son had made provision for her.

I am proud of John. He knows now that Jesus loved him because this new responsibility has been assigned to him. He will always be a braver and better man because he must now be Mary's son. He must, for Mary relies upon him.

I must not miss the face and arm of the little angel, who is releasing Mary's garment from the coarse thorn on which it has caught. Gracious little ministry rendered so unobtrusively! There is something like this for me to do today. Life is a thorny road at best, and help is needed all along the way. God may give me my greatest privilege at the point where no spectators watch me as I help a comrade in the way.

Heavenly Father, I forget so often that Jesus is put to shame and crucified daily in plain sight of my thoughtless eyes. Every sin is a fresh nailing of my Master to a cross. Help me to give the strong hand of help to all who are involved in this sad tragedy. May I give my courage to those who are disheartened; my strength to those undone in the conflict; my counsel to those who are perplexed and dismayed at the bewildering stress of life.

I carry with me the precious assurance that I too can loose the hindrance of someone who needs my help today. *Amen*

A Meditation on Mother Love

Hannah, Samuel, and Eli
(*In the East Window*)

Everything coarse and mean I put far from my heart, O God, as I assure myself that Thou art near me in this quiet place.

Make my heart clean and all my thoughts sincere as I reflect now on the meaning of a mother's love, a child's loyalty, and the place of worship in human life.

With what eagerness little Samuel looks up into Eli's face! He has walked all the way from home, assisted by his stout staff, in order that he may begin his new life in the temple service! His dreams are coming true and he is helping to make them so.

How kindly the old priest looks at the sturdy boy, as he listens to Hannah's story of her hopes for her son. He understands; and he will not fail to be tender and wise in guiding the eager boy to the fulfilment of his mother's hopes.

In Hannah's face pride struggles with sorrow. She must leave her boy in a strange place to the care of those who cannot understand and appreciate as she does all his little needs. She can sew for him and pray for him. Only a few times will she see him again, her little Samuel with the wistful eyes. He was God's great gift to her, she does not shrink now that the time has come to yield him to the Giver. But how much it cost!

With such love as this my mother cared for me. I will not disappoint her fondest hopes.

Forgive me, my Father God, that I have fallen so far short of the life that my mother yearned to have me live.

New energies are stirring within me now; I will yield to their impulse. My mother meant that I should be brave and happy and useful, a child of God in all my actions, as I was the child of her love when I lay in her arms. I will not fail her. *Amen*

A Meditation on Decision

Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler
(*In the East Window*)

As on that great day in his experience, when Thou didst meet the rich young man, O Master, wilt Thou speak also to me. In the quietness of this chapel today reveal to me the supreme beauty of Thy service and the opportunity to do Thy will; grant that I may not make the great refusal as I consider here Thy call to follow Thee.

I tend to think first of the sacrifice of his possessions which the rich young man was called upon to make. Because this seems so difficult, and because I sometimes thoughtlessly question whether it was a fair condition, I lose sight of the greater fact. Jesus called this young man to a new life with Him which would bring out every noble quality within him and make him a leader of men for all time.

I think how Francis of Assisi was also a rich young man who gave up everything that he might follow his Master. All the world honors him now because he did not refuse to surrender that which was less important that he might achieve that which was greater than all his sacrifices.

I think of this young man's mistake and wonder how he could have been so shortsighted in making it. And then I repeat the blunder when, time after time, I place my selfish interests and my love of possessions ahead of my loyalty to my Master.

I thank Thee, O Lord, that the call still comes to preserve my Master's will above every other interest on earth. So I obey today, as I give myself more completely to that close walk with Christ which is the source of my strength and joy.

All through the day I will remember how much this young man missed; and I will seek to gain the greatest of all treasures, nearness to my Lord and Savior.

Amen

A Meditation on Meeting God

The Conversion of Saul
(*In the East Window*)

How little he expected that the end of his journey would be what it was. So may I anticipate that God will find me and speak to me, not only when I least expect it, but here today as I wait to know His will.

This strong man bowed to his knees is Saul, the relentless persecutor, smitten blind on his cruel errand. No power ever had been able to bring him to his knees before. Now his proud will is broken. He has met the victorious Christ on the road to Damascus.

I yield every proud instinct of my spirit to my Master today. I, too, cry out "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do" and then whatever it may be, whether easy or difficult, trusting Thee for help, I will do it with all my strength.

Another factor, however, this scene does not display. The strong man will rise from his knees and become the great apostle, the flaming heart destined to enkindle millions with the love of his new Master. This I must see by imagination. The accepted will of God lifts men from their despair and sets them on their feet to hear God's commission.

Heavenly Father, forgive my sins. I have been wrong and weak. My heart condemns me; what then must be the censure of Thy justice. I am smitten by the consciousness of my failures and acts of positive wrong. Yet Thou hast something better in store for me. I rise to receive Thy commission. What man can do to me may fill me with fear; but what Thou can do with me fills me with courage and eagerness.

In going back to my work I will not forget those rays of blinding light, which were at the moment to Saul of Tarsus the means of his undoing, but which became the symbol of the radiant will of God, the means of his conquest and achievement. *Amen*

A Meditation on the Nativity

The Nativity
(*In the East Window*)

Around a humble building in a little town gathered long ago the singing angels of God, the humble shepherds from the field, and the Wise Men from the East. There they found the Prince of Glory. Here today may I too find Him as I think of the meaning of His birth.

I must not confine the birthday of Jesus to a far off land and time. Whenever I yield my will to his, whenever I am sensitive to his nearness and guidance, I am standing by the cradle of my Master and finding my Lord. Thus Christmas becomes not a single day in the year but every day and any hour when Christ enters my life and masters my purposes.

I am glad that Christ is born in a lowly place and that he entered the world in great humility. All this shows me that my own life is not too small or too weak to become the scene of a new-born purpose.

The splendid angels bow in adoration, as I would also pay my reverence now to the Master and Lord of my life. I walk too often in the presence of the mystery and majesty of life with no reverence or worship. Not now, my God! I, too, adore the Christ of Bethlehem.

Help me, Heavenly Father, to catch the vision of Jesus here and to go out with it clear and shining, to light every day that is dark and to strengthen me for every path that is difficult.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Amen

A Meditation on Consecration

The Baptism of Jesus
(*In the East Window*)

On the great day of His consecration in baptism Jesus knew that the Father was nearer to Him than the water of the river or the friend at his side. So I bow my heart before Thee, my God and Father, and crave today the sense of Thy presence at this moment as I think on the meaning of my life and my loyalty to Thee.

Help me, O God, to accept whatever tasks Thy loving will may assign me with the perfect trust with which Jesus faced the high day of His consecration.

I am to give Thee a strong body, unbroken by any fault of mine, as the instrument through which I am to do my part in the world's work. I consecrate my physical being as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

I am to give Thee a loving heart, free from all hatred and scorn. I am to love beauty and all fine things. I purge my feelings now of anything that is coarse and hateful, for Jesus has taught me that the pure in heart see God.

I am to give Thee my will, disciplined to choose the right and leave the wrong undone. I will be more resolute to fight against temptation and to stand firmly for justice, purity, and peace.

I am to give Thee a spirit sensitive to the slightest impulses and whispers of Thy being. I will hunger and thirst for the divine satisfactions and not be satisfied until my apprehension of spiritual reality has been quickened and intensified.

Today, in school, at home, in business, among my friends, I will be the kind of a person that Jesus was in His intimate contacts with his comrades and the practical experiences of daily life. For this I claim the gifts of Thy counsel and peace. I will carry the sweet sense of Thy nearness forth from this place of prayer, for Thou hast promised ever to be near me. *Amen*

A Meditation on the Majesty of Christ

The Glorified Savior
(*In the East Window*)

Shall only the angels behold Thee, Glorious and Divine Redeemer? No, Thou art here in my heart and Thy presence fills this place, as once, in Isaiah's vision, Thy glory filled the temple and the angels acclaimed Thee. With the adoration which lifts my soul to Thy glory while it humbles my sinful pride to the dust, I worship Thy majesty, my Master and my Lord.

Cleanse my heart, O God, and purify my purpose and will until I am sure of my pardon for sin and hear Thee call me friend.

How shall I think of the glory of my Redeemer?

He is glorious in His earthly life. The centuries make ever more vivid the radiant loveliness of His human life on earth. I adore His sympathy, His forgiving love, His patience.

He is glorious in the intimate and strengthening grace of His unseen but actual fellowship with all who seek to follow Him.

He is glorious in His life with the Father. Through the figure of the Courts of Heaven and the Celestial City where His earthly life finds its full and final fruition, I learn that Christ is in fellowship with all who have passed beyond this human sphere and that He and they are with me now. The highest reach of imagination cannot come fully to the exalted realm of this celestial bliss and service. I can adore Him, but I cannot comprehend Him. Thus I lift my spirit in worship to my living Redeemer.

Heavenly Father, I thank Thee that my Savior is more glorious than I can possibly imagine. Out of my weakness I seek His strength; out of the poverty of my frequent failure I come to claim the wealth of His forgiving love; out of the highest attainment which I have reached I stretch my powers toward even greater possessions. *Amen*

I hush all my restless questionings and release myself from all anxious care as I come into Thy presence here, my Father God. I affirm that Thou art near me for I assure myself of Thy love. Make me thoughtful and receptive of truth as I meditate on the reality of Thy care for me.

I have tried to find God by seeking Him through what others have said about Him. Many times I have felt sure of God because I knew that others who were older and wiser than I had found Him. But I needed something more to confirm my faith.

I have tried to find God by doing my duty in the conviction that it was His will and that the way of obedience was the path of knowledge. It has helped me. But I needed someting more to confirm my faith.

I have sometimes tried to put God to the test and have demanded that in some certain way I might be assured that He was the very reality of my world and the heart of my being. Strength and certainty have come sometimes; at others there has been no result from my effort to take Him by storm.

Then I have sought God by the way of Jesus. I have studied the thoughts and the ways of the Lord Christ. He was always so sure of the Father. I have found that the God and Father of Jesus was the God my spirit longed to find and the satisfaction of my yearning.

Then I saw that Jesus was sure of God because He prayed and loved and worked, always making the fact of the Father's will his very food and shelter. Then I knew and thus again I know that the way to find God is to be obedient and trustful as Jesus was. I must work and wait and yield my life to the Father. Then I must be patient. So the light will break and the strength will come.

Thanks to Thee, O Father, for this assurance. I will follow Jesus until the end of the journey, which is peace and joy in Thyself. *Amen*

How wonderful must it have been for living men and women to see Jesus and walk beside Him, listening as he spoke! And yet there may have been sources of misunderstanding even then. Perhaps I can come even closer to Him as I remember what I have read and studied concerning His words and actions when He lived in Palestine. I will try to do this now. I will listen if possibly I may hear His words spoken in the secret chambers of my heart.

I can see Jesus as I read the New Testament and study how He lived and what He said when He was here on earth. My Bible becomes a very book of life to me when I make it the means by which I see Jesus among men long ago. Help me, Divine Teacher, to reflect upon it more.

I can see Jesus as I study what He has become to those who have loved and trusted Him since He went away from those who followed Him in His human life. He has made weak men strong; He has changed the doubters into the men of faith; He has made the lives of debased men and women true and happy again. So I see Jesus when I discern what He has done in the life and character of others. Help me, Divine Revealer, to trace this more carefully and clearly.

I can see Jesus as I watch the working out of His spirit and purpose in the best and bravest living of my fellows today. I see them transformed; and I see Him, the Transformer. What He does to them He can do to me. Help me to yield my whole life to Him, the supreme Master of Life.

I will follow Jesus in the way of daily living with a new purpose from today onward. I will try to repeat in my surroundings the very spirit of His life. Give me strength to do this Heavenly Father, and never to give up the determination to become like Him whom I have seen by faith. *Amen*

Richness of Life

I have a few moments to think and pray before the day begins to bring me its tasks and problems. I remember that Jesus said that He came that we might have life abundantly; I will think that I hear Him say these words to me just now. Help me, Heavenly Father, to understand this truth better as I think upon it.

God means that I should live richly and fully. How, then, may I enter into fuller life today?

The world around me is filled with richness and wonder if I will only stop to see it. Let me see all nature today in its beauty.

How those whom I love and who love me enrich my life if I keep my love pure and my thoughts unselfish! Let me enjoy my friendships better today because I give my best to others.

My work brings me satisfaction and enrichment if only I make it a real service to God and do it without grudging. Let me find satisfactions unknown before in my labor because I have interpreted it as the will of God.

My visions and dreams, my ambitions and ideals, how full of satisfaction they are if only I yield to them and follow their royal behest with all my powers! Let me dare some fresh adventure today in the quest of that which is higher and finer than anything that I achieved yesterday.

How gloriously my life is enlarged when I interpret it in the light of the purposes of Jesus, who bids me follow Him! Let me think of Him today as the Friend beside me and the Master who controls my life.

Heavenly Father, it seems so right and reasonable to live an abundant life in Thy world. I give myself to this effort in the simple faith of a child who trusts its father's love and strength. *Amen*

"Quit You Like Men, be Strong"

I have read that strength and beauty are in Thy house, O God. Thy nearness brings peace and power. I enter into the sense of the reality of Thy love and wisdom as I affirm that Thou art my God. Forgive me for my weakness and fill me with Thy strength. Let me hear Thee calling me to act the part of courage and to be strong.

And how shall I enter into the possession of strength? I am so often fearful and I fail in such grievous ways! Let me think on the sources of power.

There are greater energies in my own possession than I ever have used. There have come sudden demands upon me for action and I have surpassed all my previous poor estimate of myself. Now I need to assure myself that what I could do in the emergency I can do in the ordinary routine of living if only I will rally to myself the unused energies within me.

There are such wonderful resources in my friends and surroundings! When I am sure that others whom I love expect better things of me I suddenly rise to meet their demand. I can do what love calls me to do. So I desire that my friends will make great demands upon me in order that I may make greater demands upon myself.

There are energies waiting for me to use them in the strength of my God. I know that this is so. Many times when I seem to have exhausted all my powers in response to my own demands upon myself and the best that my friends could do has been done, then, from unexpected sources has come new power. God helped me. He will help me again. I need not be defeated.

Since this is true, I will act today with better courage and stronger powers. I will place my life against these three sources of energy as the great wheel is laid against the rushing water confined in the sluice and penstock. Thank Thee for Thine offer, O God. I rise and accept.

Amen

O, Almighty God,
From whom every good prayer cometh,
And who pourest out on all who desire it
The spirit of grace and supplication;
Deliver us, when we draw nigh to thee,
From coldness of heart and wandering of mind,
That with steadfast thoughts
And kindled affections
We may worship thee in spirit and in truth;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

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Almighty God, our heavenly Father, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, we call to remembrance thy loving kindness and thy tender mercies which have been ever of old, and with grateful hearts we lift up to thee the voice of our thanksgiving.

For the life thou hast given us, and the world in which we live:

We Praise Thee, O God.

For the order and constancy of nature; for the beauty and bounty of the world:

We Praise Thee, O God.

For all the comforts and gladness of life; for our homes and all our home blessings; for our friends and all the pure pleasures of social intercourse; for the love, sympathy, and good will of men:

We Praise Thee, O God.

For the gift of thy Son Jesus Christ, and all the helps and hopes which are ours as his disciples; for the presence and inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, and for all the ministers of thy truth and grace:

We Praise Thee, O God.

And now, O Lord, having praised thee with our lips; grant that we may also praise thee in consecrated and faithful lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
We, thine unworthy servants,
Do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
For all thy goodness and loving-kindness
To us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
And all the blessings of this life;
But above all for thine inestimable love
In the redemption of the world
By our Lord Jesus Christ;
For the means of grace,
And for the hope of glory.
And, we beseech thee,
Give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
That our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
And that we show forth thy praise,
Not only with our lips, but in our lives,
By giving up ourselves to thy service,
And by walking before thee
In holiness and righteousness
All our days,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
To whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
Be all honor and glory,
World without end. *Amen*

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O Lord, support us all the day long
Of this troublous life,
Until the shadows lengthen,
And the evening comes,
And the busy world is hushed,
And the fever of life is over,
And our work is done.
Then of thy great mercy
Grant us a safe lodging,
And a holy rest,
And peace at the last;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O God, who hast folded back the mantle of the night to clothe us in the golden glory of the day; chase from our hearts all gloomy thoughts, and make us glad with the brightness of hope, that we may effectively aspire to unwon virtues, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

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O Lord, we have a busy world around us. Eye, ear, and thought will be needed for all our work to be done in the world. Now, ere we again enter upon it, we would commit eye, ear, and thought to thee. Do thou bless them and keep their work thine, that as through thy natural laws our hearts beat and our blood flows without any thought of ours for them, so our spiritual life may hold on its course at those times when our minds cannot consciously turn to thee to commit each particular thought to thy service. Hear our prayer for our Redeemer's sake. *Amen*

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The day returns and brings us
The petty round
Of irritating concerns and duties.
Help us to play the man!
Help us to perform them
With laughter and kind faces.
Let cheerfulness abound with industry.
Give us to go blithely on our business
All this day.
Bring us to our resting beds
Weary, and content, and undishonored.
And grant us in the end
The gift of sleep. *Amen*

✣ ✣ ✣

Lord, our God, the help of those that flee unto thee, the hope of those who cry unto thee, cleanse us from our sins and from every thought displeasing to thy goodness, that with a pure heart and a clear soul, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto thee. *Amen*

We beseech thee, Lord, to behold us with favor, weak men and women subsisting under the covert of thy patience. Be patient still; suffer as yet a while longer with our broken purposes of good, with our idle endeavors against evil, suffer us a while longer to endure and (if it may be) help us to do better. Bless to us our extraordinary mercies; if the day come when these must be taken, brace us to play the man under affliction. Be with our friends, be with ourselves. Go with each of us to rest; if any awake, temper to them the dark hours of watching; and when the day returns, return to us, our sun and comforter, and call us up with morning faces and with morning hearts—eager to labor; eager to be happy, if happiness shall be our portion; and if the day be marked for sorrow, strong to endure it.

Amen

✣ ✣ ✣

O God, in times of doubts and questionings, when our belief is perplexed by new learning, new teaching, new thought; when our faith is strained by creeds, by doctrines, by mysteries beyond our understanding, give us the faithfulness of learners and the courage of believers in thee; give us boldness to examine and faith to trust all truth; patience and insight to master difficulties; stability to hold fast our tradition with enlightened interpretation, to admit all fresh truth made known to us, and in times of trouble, to grasp new knowledge really and to combine it loyally and honestly with the old; alike from stubborn rejection of new revelations, and from hasty assurance that we are wiser than our fathers. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord. *Amen*

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O God, Author of the world's joy, Bearer of the world's pain, make us glad that we are men and that we have inherited the world's burden; deliver us from the luxury of cheap melancholy; and, at the heart of all our trouble and sorrow, let unconquerable gladness dwell; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, may we glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

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Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

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O Almighty Father, who dost heal both the bodies and the souls of men, who didst send thine Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal every disease and sickness and to redeem us from death; deliver thy servants, we humbly beseech thee, from all infirmities, both of soul and body, by the grace of thy Christ; For thou art the Fountain of Healing, O our God; and unto thee do we give the glory. *Amen*

✣ ✣ ✣

Grant us, O Lord,
In all our duties thy *Help*,
In all our perplexities thy *Counsel*,
In all our dangers thy *Protection*,
And in all our sorrows thy *Peace*,
For the sake of Jesus Christ,
Our Savior. *Amen*

✣ ✣ ✣

Almighty God, who has given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen*

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have erred and strayed from thy ways
Like lost sheep.
We have followed too much
The devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against thy holy laws.
We have left undone
Those things which we ought to have done;
And we have done
Those things which we ought not to have done;
And there is no health in us.
But thou, O Lord,
Have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults.
Restore thou those who are penitent;
According to thy promises
Declare unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
That we may hereafter
Live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
To the glory of thy holy name. *Amen*

Confessions of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. *Amen*

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, goodness and love;

And in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord and Savior, who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again and liveth evermore;

And in the Holy Spirit, who taketh of the things of Christ, and revealeth them to us, renewing, comforting and inspiring the souls of men.

We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us.

We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all mankind, exalting the worship of the one true God, and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood.

Depending, as did our fathers, upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God; and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

Amen

✣ ✣ ✣

God is love; and everyone that loveth, is born of God, and knoweth God. We have beheld and bear witness that the Father hath sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also. The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God; and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified with him. *Amen*

A Prayer for the Seminary

The Thorndike Hilton Memorial Chapel is an integral part of The Chicago Theological Seminary. It is therefore fitting that the Seminary should be definitely included in the subjects for meditation and prayer in the Chapel.

The first professor to be inaugurated in the Seminary was the Reverend Joseph Haven, who became internationally known as a philosopher and theologian. His inaugural address was entitled "Theology as a Science," and was delivered on the evening of Wednesday, October 20, 1858. At the conclusion of the address, Professor Haven was followed by his audience in a prayer for the Seminary, which is so fitting and timely that its continued use is proposed to the worshipers in the Chapel:

"And now, O God, we commend to thee this institution. Be thou its strength and its defense. Guard it against the dangers to which it may be exposed. Sustain it during its years of infancy, and the struggles of its growth and early manhood. Raise up helpers for it in its darkest hours.

"Let no dissensions or jealousies spring up among those who sustain it, to diminish its strength or mar its usefulness. Let it be a fountain open for the healing of the nations. May its streams mingle with the great current of the world's thought and feeling, to make it purer and better.

"When they, who now with prayer and faith open and consecrate this institution, shall have passed away from the scenes of earthly toil, may its streams, pure and sweet, still flow on to bless the world, and make glad the city of our God, until they shall at last be swallowed up in the river of life that flows from beneath thy throne."

Order of Worship

Number 1

Hymns of Meditation, Played on the Organ

A Hymn of Worship, Sung Together

A Responsive Reading from the Psalms, Optional

An Order of Prayer, in Unison

✣ ✣ ✣

O God, Light of the minds that see thee, Life of the souls that love thee, and Strength of the thoughts that seek thee; enlarge our minds and raise the vision of our hearts that, with swift wings of thought, our spirits may reach thee, the Eternal Wisdom, who art from everlasting to everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

✣ ✣ ✣

O Almighty God,
From whom every good prayer cometh,
And who pourest out on all who desire it
The spirit of grace and supplication;
Deliver us, when we draw nigh to thee,
From coldness of heart and wanderings of mind,
That with steadfast thoughts
And kindled affections
We may worship thee in spirit and in truth;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

✣ ✣ ✣

O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee; mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning: grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen*

✣ ✣ ✣

We beseech thee, Lord, to behold us with favor, weak men and women subsisting under the covert of thy patience. Be patient still; suffer us yet a while longer with our broken purposes of good, with our idle endeavors against evil, suffer us a while longer to endure and (if it may be) help us to do better. Bless to us our extraordinary mercies; if the day come when these must be taken, brace us to play the man under affliction. Be with our friends, be with ourselves. Go with each of us to rest; if any awake, temper to them the dark hours of watching; and when the day returns, return to us, our sun and comforter, and call us up with morning faces and with morning hearts—eager to labor; eager to be happy, if happiness shall be our portion; and if the day be marked for sorrow, strong to endure it. *Amen*

✣ ✣ ✣

Almighty God, who has given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen*

✣ ✣ ✣

Collects and Prayers, by the Minister

An Address, Optional

The Benediction, by the Minister

A Hymn, Played on the Organ

Number 2

Hymns of Meditation, Played on the Organ

A Hymn of Worship, Sung Together

A Scripture Lesson, Optional

An Order of Prayer, in Unison

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Almighty and Everlasting God, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the temples which our hands have builded, but who art ever nigh unto the humble and the contrite: shed down the Holy Spirit, we beseech thee, on all who are here assembled: that cleansed and illumined by thy grace, we may worthily show forth thy praise, meekly learn thy Word, render due thanks for thy mercies, and obtain a gracious answer to our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

✣ ✣ ✣

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast revealed thy glory by Christ among all nations, preserve the works of thy mercy, that thy church, which is spread throughout the world, may preserve with steadfast faith in the confession of thy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. O God, who has made all those that are born again in Christ to be a royal and priestly race, grant us both the will and the power to do what thou commandest, that thy people who are called to eternal life may have the same faith in their hearts, and the same piety in their actions. May our rulers govern with thy wisdom, may their counsels be drawn from thy fountain, may their virtues be increased, and may all the people be righteous, full of light, and obedient unto thy holy law. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen*

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen*

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Give us, O God, the scholar's conscience, that we may never, seeking for effect, go outside our knowledge; gladden us with the saint's vision of thy blessed face, so giving rest to our restless hearts; and crown thy gifts with the prophet's passion for righteousness and truth; through our Teacher and our Guide, Jesus Christ.

Amen

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Collects and Prayers, by the Minister

An Address, Optional

The Benediction, by the Minister

✣ ✣ ✣

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you always. *Amen*

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A Hymn, Played on the Organ

Number 3

HYMNS OF MEDITATION, PLAYED ON THE ORGAN

SCRIPTURE, IN UNISON

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The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

✣ ✣ ✣

A PRAYER OF PRAISE, IN UNISON

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, we call to remembrance thy loving kindness and thy tender mercies which have been ever of old, and with grateful hearts we lift up to thee the voice of our thanksgiving.

For the life thou hast given us, and the world in which we live:

We Praise Thee, O God

For all the comforts and gladness of life; for our homes and all our home blessings; for our friends and all the pure pleasures of social intercourse; for the love, sympathy, and good will of men:

We Praise Thee, O God

For the gift of thy Son Jesus Christ, and all the helps and hopes which are ours as his disciples; for the presence and inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, and for all the ministers of thy truth and grace:

We Praise Thee, O God

And now, O Lord, having praised thee with our lips; grant that we may also praise thee in consecrated and faithful lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Scripture, in Unison

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know and the way ye know.

A Hymn of Trust

Collects and Prayers, by the Minister

An Address, Optional

The Benediction, by the Minister

A Hymn, Played on the Organ

Number 4

Hymns of Meditation, Played on the Organ

A Period of Silent Prayer

[The minister will indicate the subjects of thanksgiving and petition, allowing a period of silent prayer to follow each announcement.]

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Hymn Tunes, Played on the Organ

[The organist will select tunes with which familiar hymns are associated. The worshipers will follow these words silently, meditating on their meaning.]

Prayer, in Unison

We beseech thee, Lord, to behold us with favor, weak men and women subsisting under the covert of thy patience. Be patient still; suffer us yet a while longer with our broken purposes of good, with our idle endeavors against evil, suffer us a while longer to endure and (if it may be) help us to do better. Bless to us our extraordinary mercies; if the day come when these must be taken, brace us to play the man under affliction. Be with our friends, be with ourselves. Go with each of us to rest; if any awake, temper to them the dark hours of watching; and when the day returns, return to us, our sun and comforter, and call us up with morning faces and with morning hearts—eager to labor; eager to be happy, if happiness shall be our portion; and if the day be marked for sorrow, strong to endure it. *Amen*

✣ ✣ ✣

Collects and Prayers, by the Minister

An Address, Optional

The Benediction, by the Minister

A Hymn, Played on the Organ

A Prayer for the Ministry

OUR Heavenly Father, we thank thee for the succession of the apostles which is guaranteed by the countless dedicated men and women who keep alive the conquering love of Christ and serve him in the church.

We pray that the fires of devotion may burn brighter as the years pass. Give to thy preachers the message and the passion still coming from the living Christ.

May thy ministers know him in the intimacies of their deepest life; feel him at their side when they go among the people; be aware of his strengthening grace in the midst of their parish problems. Perfect their manhood; refine their sense of reverence and devotion; hearten them with such visible fruition from their labor as shall be best for them. Increase their courage; make the spiritual realities ever more vivid than the material world around them.

And through them may the people discern with new clearness the fact and the power of Christ. In his name. *Amen*

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